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COLLECTION

411766

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Assistant Director, Office of Reports and Estimates

SUBJECT: Arms smuggling in Southeast Asia by U.S. citizens

DATE: 1 July 1949

Executive Registry

0-5270

1. Since the end of World War II arms smuggling in Southeast Asia by U.S. citizens ~~appears to have been~~ extensive. In general, the Philippines has been used as a base of operations. The supply derives in the main from military equipment left by the U. S. Army and later sold as surplus property, and from commercial imports into the Philippines.

2. The illegal smuggling activities of Americans constitute a patent threat to U. S. relations with Southeast Asian countries. In this connection, ~~the current strenuous efforts of the State Department to secure the release of three U. S. smugglers legally convicted by the Dutch, not only offers encouragement to increased smuggling by Americans in the area but exposes the U. S. locally to the suspicion that it condones such ventures and will protect participants in them.~~

3. Attached hereto are three alphabetical lists of U. S. individuals, groups, and companies known or suspected of engaging in smuggling arms throughout Southeast Asia. The individuals named are presumed to be U. S. citizens although proof of such is not available for all. The majority are known to have served in the U. S. Armed Forces. The activities described have transpired within the past two years. ~~Sources and further details are on file in ORE if such are desired.~~

4. In accordance with your request, all material available in ORE regarding those connections ~~which bear any possible relation to smuggling in the Philippines are included in a fourth enclosure. The information is negative.~~

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Attachments (4)

1. List of Individuals
2. List of Groups
3. List of Companies
4. Philippine Commercial Connections

Re-typed +
hand carried by
DCI to Pres.
on 6 July.

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